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Mulkey/R3/USEPA/US
12/20/2011 08:14 AM

To Heather Gray, Cecil Rodrigues, Judith Hykel
cc
bcc
Subject Interesting Dimock info

News Headline: Mayor defends Dimock water aid decision |  

Outlet Full Name: Democrat and Chronicle - Online

News Text: BINGHAMTON -- Mayor Matthew T. Ryan wants residents to know: The city is keeping track of every penny spent and received in connection with his controversial decision to send water aid to Dimock, Pa.

Invoices show the city has billed the Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter \$1,945.76 this month for four shipments of clean water to Dimock Township, where 11 families say their water wells were contaminated by Cabot Oil & Gas' nearby hydraulic fracturing operations.

Each trip between took between 4 and 6 hours and involved two city employees and a city water tanker, the invoices show.

Salary, benefits and truck use are billed by the hour. The Sierra Club was billed \$5.98 per trip for the water itself.

"I think it's important that people know that we're charging a fair rate," Ryan said. "We're even probably making money from the deal."

Ryan said the water tanker used for the shipments is normally used to wet down roads during construction, and other than the deliveries to Dimock, the truck would sit around unused this time of year.

Nevertheless, Ryan's critics say the efforts are misplaced.

Incoming Binghamton City Council members Joseph Mihalko, Chris Papastrat and John Matzo -- all Republicans -- have derided the water aid, saying it's politically motivated and a distraction from other issues.

Others have expressed doubt that water sampling data for the Dimock wells support claims that contaminants are linked to natural gas drilling. A recent memo from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency indicates the water may be safe.

"The (Dimock) water's been tested," said Dan Fitzsimmons, president of the Joint Landowners Coalition of New York. "This is all a big political ploy."

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